

provide regional and statewide data for comparison and analysis in SPOT; the latter survey provides county-level comparisons.

Survey and other data sets, including mortality, natality, population, hospital, nursing home, census, crash, and school data sets, can be used to triangulate on community problems. Examples of questions that can be answered using SPOT include what are the leading causes of death among particular gender, racial/ethnic, age, socioeconomic status and geographic groups, or how do cause-specific illness or injury death rates in a county or region seem to be related to adult and youth health risks in that county or region and what hospital-based and other services are available for treatment. Such questions can be answered using comparisons of excess death rates by cause, excess risk factors for those death rates from survey data, and resource availability and accessibility data from joint annual surveys of facilities.

The burden of illness and injury mortality can be displayed as data listings and tables, county rankings, shaded maps, pie or bar charts, or plots at county, regional, and statewide levels. Interactive GIS capabilities on the Web site on HIT MAPMAKER allow for customized mapping of related exposures by overlaying census data with vital statistics, as well as overlays of cities and towns, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and alcohol and drug treatment facilities. Data can be analyzed by age, sex, race, education, poverty status, Hispanic origin, and residence to yield comprehensive profiles of health exposures, risk and need for services in Tennessee using HIT and SPOT.

The mapping ability in HIT MAPMAKER greatly expands the utility of SPOT for community-based health needs assessment. The GIS component of HIT enables the user to customize maps at county and census tract levels. Basic atlas functions are provided interactively, along with bivariate overlay mapping using SPOT data. The user interface is friendly and straightforward. Site users are able to create, view, alter, download, and print maps. Pan, zoom and identify functions are available as are limited buffer functions. Data from the SPOT component is able to be transferred to the mapping program to produce age-sex-race and region-specific one and two variable maps of mortality, population, birth and census data, mapped in relation to locations of hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other facilities.

Another addition to HIT is Summary County Results Explorer (SCORE). SCORE uses aggregate, rather than case-level, data to provide customized outputs similar to SPOT. The prototype of SCORE uses Tennessee KIDS COUNT data by year and supports the Tennessee Governor's Initiative on Children and Youth, TNKIDS. SCORE also provides GIS functions through HIT MAPMAKER.

For more information, please contact The University of Tennessee, Community Health Research Group, Suite 309, Conference Center Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4133, phone: 856-974-4511 or e-mail: [chrg@utk.edu](mailto:chrg@utk.edu) or [sputnam1@utk.edu](mailto:sputnam1@utk.edu).